PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOCIETY

FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF

HORTICULTURE AND AGRICULTURE,

AND THE

ARTS CONNECTED WITH THEM

IN

JAMAICA,

On the 20th January and 11th April, 1825.

WITH

THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS.

38

VEREIN ZER BEFOERD. DES GARTENB. IN PREUSS.

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OF

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FIRST GENERAL MEETING.

OF THE

HORTICULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF JAMAICA.

AT a Meeting held in Kingston, on Thursday the 20th January, 1825,

DR. BANCROFT, *in the Chair,*

The following Resolutions were entered into, viz.

1. That a Society be instituted to be denominated "the Society for the encouragement of Horticulture and Agriculture, and of the arts connected with them in Jamaica;" and that the Gentlemen now present, together with those whose names are subscribed to the papers which have been read, shall be Members thereof.

2. That every Gentleman, on becoming a Member of this Society, shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer, one Doubloon, and afterwards an annual contribution of eight Dollars.

3. That a general Meeting of the Society shall be held in Kingston on the second Monday in January, the second Monday in April, the first Monday in August, and the second Monday in November, to transact all the ordinary business of the Society, and to hear such papers read as may be transmitted to the Secretary, and have been approved of by the Committee, during the preceding quarter.

4. That after the second Monday in April, 1825, no Gentleman shall be admitted as a Member, except by ballot at a general Meeting of the Society, after having been proposed at a former meeting. Three black balls to exclude.

5. That, in future, at the general Meeting in January, the Members present shall elect a President, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and twenty-four Members, as a *Standing Committee*, for the ensuing year, any *seven* of whom shall be a quorum.

6. That a certain number of prizes shall be given annually, for such subjects as shall be determined on at a general meeting of the Society, and that the Committee of Management shall decide who may be entitled to each prize.

7. That communications on all subjects connected with the objects of the Society will be gladly received, and if any valuable improvement be suggested, the Society shall cause such experiments to be made, as may be necessary to determine the point proposed.

8. That this meeting do now proceed to elect a President, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and twelve Members of the Committee of Management, and that the remaining twelve Members shall be elected at the general meeting in April.

The meeting directs that Circular Letters be sent to the Public Officers, the Honourable the Members of the Council and House of Assembly, the Custodes and Rectors of parishes, requesting them to make known the objects of the Society in their respective districts.

The Thanks of the meeting were voted to Dr. Bancroft for his conduct in the Chair.

N. B. The Committee to meet on the first and third Wednesday's of every month, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

SECOND MEETING.

AT a numerous and highly respectable meeting of the Society for the encouragement of Horticulture and Agriculture, held in this City, on the 11th of April, 1825,

The President, DR. BANCROFT, *in the Chair.*

The President addressed the Members as follows :—

" GENTLEMEN,

I FEEL a very sincere pleasure in being able to congratulate you on so full and respectable a meeting as the present, and also on the great increase in the number of the Members since our first meeting in January, as it manifests the favonrable light in which the community has viewed the formation of this Society. With individuals possessed of so much information, in regard to the concerns of this Island, as those whom I have the honour of addressing, it would be superfluous to discuss the importance of the objects for which the Society has been instituted, which are " the encouragement of Horticulture, of Agriculture, and of the arts connected with them in Jamaica :" Your having joined the Society, and your attendance this day, sufficiently prove the value which you place on them, and the interest which you take in its success. But as some doubt or misapprehension seems to

have arisen relative to those objects, I shall beg your permission briefly to explain them, so far at least as I may flatter myself with understanding them.

"Since the prosperity of this Island depends wholly on the cultivation of its soil, whatever may contribute to maintain or to augment that source of prosperity, will have a powerful claim on the attention of the Society; and therefore it must endeavour to make itself acquainted with the most scientific and improved modes of cultivating and of preparing the present staple articles of produce, in whatever quarter of the Globe they may be raised, and to seek out and introduce, from other countries, such plants as may be useful to this Island, more especially as new staples, some of which, it is probable, might be advantageously planted in soils that are becoming exhausted by a long succession of crops of the staples hitherto raised on them. But while the Society is fully sensible of the importance of the objects just mentioned, it is likewise aware of the high degree of improvement to which the cultivation of the present staples has arrived, through the incessant exertions of enlightened and wealthy proprietors, deeply interested in bringing to the utmost perfection every mode of culture that theory or practice could suggest. And if, in consequence, it should prove to be a task beyond its powers to point out any material amendment in the present modes of cultivation, the Society would nevertheless render an essential service, if it should be enabled to collect sound information as to those approved modes, and to embody and disseminate it over the Colony.

"There is, however, another object which has hitherto been in a great measure overlooked, at least in the British West India Colonies, and to which the Society is anxious to invite the attention of the Inhabitants of Jamaica, I mean Horticulture. If we consider the nature and extent of the benefits which this Art is capable of yielding, and the importance, to our healths more especially, of being supplied with a sufficiency of the most wholesome species or varieties of esculent vegetables and fruits; if we recollect, in short, the *multum in parvo* of comfort, luxury, and ornament, which a garden may be made to afford, and in no part of the world perhaps more abundantly than in the Tropics, it will not excite surprise that a Society should at length be formed for the purpose of encouraging this most useful branch of Agriculture, in conjunction with those other branches which concern the staple productions of the Island. There are few arts which, in the most enlightened parts of Europe, have been more assiduously cultivated, or more successfully improved, than Horticulture; but much of the science which has been there acquired is inapplicable, as well to the climate, as to most of the plants, of the Tropics; and we have therefore to discover for ourselves, what are the most suitable modes of rearing and improving the vegetables, which nature has bountifully bestowed on these regions, and how we may most efficaciously apply the principles of the skilful Horticulturists of Europe to practice in this colony. But if the Society shall succeed in rousing the attention of Proprietors and Planters to this valuable art, there is a fund of intelligence and industry dispersed over the island which forbids us to despair of ere long accomplishing an object so essential to the welfare of every family, as the general introduction of gardening.

"As the knowledge of plants leads to the knowledge also of the various uses to which they may be applied, the Society consider Botany to be a science of great utility, and earnestly desire to promote its cultivation.

These then, together with the promotion of the arts connected with Horticulture and Agriculture, I believe to be the chief ends contemplated by the Society; and the manner in which it proposes more immediately to attain them will be shown in the report that has been prepared by the committee, and will be laid before you in due course.

"At our first meeting in January, many points were reserved for arrangement on this day, and particularly the regulations to be adopted for its future proceedings. These matters have accordingly also engaged the attention of your committee, and they will likewise form a part of the report just mentioned."

The minutes of the former meeting were then read and confirmed.

The names of the Gentlemen who had subscribed since the last meeting were read, and they were admitted as members.

The meeting proceeded to elect the remaining twelve members of the Committee.

His Grace the Duke of Manchester was unanimously elected Patron of the Society.

It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed to, that the President and Vice Presidents should be a Committee to wait on his Grace the Governor, and to request his acceptance of the office of Patron.

The following Report from the Committee was read :

"The Committee of management, appointed by the general meeting on the 20th of January last, at which the 'Society for the encouragement of Horticulture and of Agriculture, and of the Arts connected with them in Jamaica,' was constituted, sensible how essential it will be to the future utility, and even to the existence of the Society, that its proceedings should be conducted upon a systematic plan, calculated to give effect to the various purposes for which it has been created, have thought it incumbent on them, during the interval that has elapsed, to direct their attention to the formation of an outline which might meet the views of the Society, at least in this early stage ; and they have in consequence framed the following propositions, which they now beg permission to submit to the decision of this general meeting.

"It is accordingly proposed :—

"I. That the business of the Society shall be directed and executed by a Council, together with the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary, of whom five shall be a Quorum.

"II. That besides the general meetings already appointed to be held in January, April, August, and November, ordinary meet-

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ings shall be held on the third Wednesday of each of the intervening months, and that at every meeting, the Chair shall be taken at the hour of twelve precisely.

" III. That at each of the meetings above mentioned, new members shall be admitted, candidates to become members shall be ballotted for, medals and premiums awarded by the Council shall be presented, and visitors shall be received who are introduced by members.

" IV. That at the ordinary meetings all communications made to the Society concerning the objects of its institution, and approved by the Council, shall be read, and all vegetable and other productions that have been presented to the Society shall be exhibited, of which such portions as it may not be intended to preserve shall be distributed to the members present.

" V. That a selection of the papers read to the Society shall be published from time to time under the direction of the Council, to be delivered gratis to the members.

" VI. That every person desirous of admission into the Society shall be proposed by two or more members, one of whom must be personally acquainted with the candidate. The certificate of recommendation shall specify the name, and usual place of residence of the candidate, who shall be ballotted for after his certificate shall have been read at two meetings. The admission fee of one doubloon to be paid immediately, and the yearly contribution of eight dollars to be payable on the first of January.

"VII. That any planter or gardener by profession, who shall have received the Society's large medal, or who shall have communicated a paper which shall have been printed in the transactions of the Society, may, if approved by the Council, be elected and enjoy all the privileges of a member, without being subject to any payment.

"VIII. That as very important assistance may be afforded by individuals residing in the Colonies, or in foreign countries, towards promoting its principal objects, the Society will elect, as corresponding members, all such persons as shall be recommended by the Council on account of their scientific or other valuable qualifications. The elections shall take place at the general, or at the ordinary, meetings, and the corresponding members shall be exempted from all payments.

"XI. That communications shall be addressed to the Horticultural Societies of London and of Edinburgh, and to the Linnæan and the Wernerian Societies, acquainting them with the institution of this Society, and stating that the Society will be happy in rendering them all the assistance that may be within its reach in regard to such objects as they shall point out, and that it will receive with gratefulness whatever information or aid they may consider as likely to be useful in Jamaica, and shall be disposed to afford.

"X. That the Society shall invite communications on all matters which relate to the declared objects of the Institution, but shall invite them more particularly for the present on the subjects which immediately follow, and that the authors of papers of the

latter class, which shall have been adjudged to be the most deserving (whether residing in Jamaica or elsewhere) shall be rewarded with such prizes as the Council shall deem their respective communications to merit.

"XI. That the following be the subjects for information, upon which prizes shall be offered; the communications to be sent to the Secretary by the 15th of November, 1826 :—

"1. The progress and present state of Agriculture in Jamaica, in the other West India Colonies.

"2. The progress and present state of Horticulture in Jamaica, or in the other West India Colonies.

"3. New methods by which the culture or preparation of the present staples of the Island may be improved.

"4. The diseases of horses, mules, oxen, and sheep in the West Indies, and the means of curing them.

"5. The diseases of cultivated plants in this climate, and the modes of preventing and of checking them.

"6. The natural history of the insects, birds, and other animals, most destructive to vegetation, and the most effectual means of hindering or counteracting their ravages.

"7. The most economical modes of irrigating flat and moun-

tainous lands, with the least waste of the nutritious particles of the soil.

"8. The most economical and effectual modes of draining marshy soils,

"9. Any valuable medical property in plants hitherto unknown.

"10. The preparation of wine from the vine (vitis vinifera), and of vinous liquors from other fruits, in the Tropics.

"11. Descriptions of plants not previously known, or known imperfectly, with their botanical characters, and with specimens of each plant described, if practicable.

"12. The most advantageous modes of grafting in the Tropics, with an account of the plants on which these modes have been successful.

"The Society shall likewise offer prizes for the following objects:

"13. Improved specimens of esculent vegetables and fruits, whether native or foreign, raised in this Island.

"14. The introduction of any new and valuable plant, or esculent vegetable, or fruit. Specimens of each to be accompanied with an account of its history and cultivation.

"15. The best specimens of wines made within the Tropics

from the vine, or from other fruits. Not less than three bottles of each sort of wine to be sent.

"16. To such persons of free condition, whether of colour, or black, and male or female, as may, through his own industry, have put the cottage he has inhabited, with a garden attached to it, into the neatest condition, a premium not exceeding two doubloons.

"17. To a slave of either sex, for the same, a similar premium.

"XII. That the prizes to be bestowed by the society shall consist of Silver Medals of two sizes, and of premiums in money.

"XIII. That there shall be an annual dinner of the members of the society (at their private expense) on the day of the general meeting in August."

1. It was moved, and seconded, and agreed to unanimously, that this report be adopted, and acted upon in future.

2. The Members of the Committee of Management were appointed to constitute the Council for the remainder of the year,

3. The Right Rev. Christopher, Lord Bishop of Jamaica, the Hon. William Anglin Scarlett, Chief Justice, and the Hon. William Burge, Attorney-General, were elected as Honorary Members of the Council.

The Society requested that the President would permit the

address which he delivered at the opening of this meeting to be printed, together with the report of the Committee, to which he acceded.

The thanks of the society were voted to Messrs. Wm. Brooks King, Robert Smith, and John Lunan, for the books which they have presented to the Library of the Society.

The Chairman having left the Chair, the Hon. John Mais, Vice President, was called to it:

Mr. Mais in the Chair;

The thanks of the Meeting were voted to the President for his address, and for his able conduct in the Chair.

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